



BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

of the Medical Officer of Health,

1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough
of Christchurch.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my twelfth Annual Report for the
Borough of Christchurch, which is for the year 1940.

In accordance with instructions received from the Minister
of Health, this Report is submitted to you as an interim report and
in curtailed form in view of the need for strict economy in the use
of paper, and also owing to the excessive pressure of work in
connection with the war conditions which fall upon myself and my
Department.

The figures set forth will be found, however, to provide
a concise summary of the vital statistics and the essential data
of sanitary activities relative to your District in 1940.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Detailed information respecting these is to be found in all
my Reports prior to 1939, as also numerous tables of interest
respecting various aspects of meteorology, housing, and other matters
of sociological importance affecting your Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, D.P.H.,
Part-time. (Not engaged in private practice.) Also holds
appointments as Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District of
Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector - Charles Crowther (also Meat and Food
Inspector).

Contributions to the salaries of the above officials are
made under the Public Health Acts.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1940.

Area (in acres) 5,198.

Registrar General's estimate of Population at the
mid-year, 1940, for purposes of vital statistics - 15,330.
Comparability factor - 0.80.

Live Births -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	193	96	97
Illegitimate	8	5	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 13.1.

Still Births -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 57.4.

<u>Deaths -</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	197	109	88

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 12.8.

Deaths from Puerperal causes - 0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age -

All infants per 1,000 live births - 24.7.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 25.7.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 31.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - 0.

Cancer accounted for 16 per cent of all deaths. There were during 1940, 31 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 14 were male, and 17 were female. 8 deaths were attributed to Influenza. 5 cases of suicide were recorded. The year was remarkable for its very low infantile mortality rate, the total number of infants dying under one year of age being 5 only.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS, 1936 to 1940.Borough of Christchurch, and for England and Wales.

Year.	CHRISTCHURCH			ENGLAND AND WALES		
	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.
1936	15.8	12.2	53	14.8	12.1	59
1937	14.8	12.5	45	14.9	12.4	58
1938	16.4	11.2	47	15.1	11.6	53
1939	16.4	11.4	32	15.0	12.1	50
1940	13.1	12.8	25	14.6	14.3	55

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	16	5	0
Diphtheria	21	21	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	6	6	1
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Pneumonia	7	0	7
Measles	197	1	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0

AGE INCIDENCE

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
2	1	4	0	0	0	8	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
4	0	0	1	0	1	12	0
5	0	1	0	0	0	14	1
10	7	8	0	0	0	132	0
15	1	2	0	0	0	14	1
20	2	0	1	0	1	2	0
35	4	5	3	0	2	7	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
65	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Over 65	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	16	21	6	1	7	197	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'tory		Respiratory		Non- Resp'tory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
15-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals	10	1	2	4	5	1	0	0

Notification of Infectious Diseases has been satisfactory. There is no evidence of excessive incidence, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Infectious Diseases. The arrangements are continued with the Corporation of the Borough of Poole for Infectious Cases to be received into the Poole Isolation Hospital (84 beds). This arrangement has been entirely satisfactory.

Tuberculosis. Examination of Sputum, etc. is carried out at the County Laboratory. Sanatorium treatment and attendance is administered by the County Council.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. Arrangements have been made for a supply to be kept in the Borough for the use of Medical Practitioners.

General Medical and Surgical Cases. Cases are sent by Medical Practitioners to the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth.

Public Assistance. Fairmile House Infirmary.

There are also several private Nursing Homes in the District and vicinity.

Ambulance Facilities -

- (a) For Infectious Cases - Poole Isolation Hospital Ambulance.
- (b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases - Voluntary Ambulance.

Ambulance facilities are entirely satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the Borough is served by Mains of the West Hampshire Water Company. and apart from a very few outlying cottages, all houses are connected therewith.

The supply is constant; it is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo-solvent action, entirely free from metals, and consistently of the higher degree of bacterial purity.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

During 1940, the following visits and inspections were carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nature of Visits or Inspections.	Number
Complaints received	93
General Sanitation -	
Drains (including smoke & water tests)	242
Keeping of Animals (including Stables & Piggeries)	14
Common Lodging Houses	7
Tents, Vans & Sheds	12
Holiday Camps	13
Factories, Workshops, Workplaces & Outworkers	26
Bakehouses	23
Public Conveniences	27
Collection of House Refuse and Salvage	203
Refuse Disposal (Dump)	169
Removal of Rubbish and Accumulations	31
Rats & Mice	22
Defective Cesspits	20
Miscellaneous Visits	47
Lorry Inspections (Washdown & Greasing)	47
Infectious Diseases -	
Enquiries, Disinfections & Revisits	89
Public Health Act (Visits & Inspections)	54
Rivers, Streams & Ditches	8
Housing Act (Visits & Inspections)	43
Overcrowding (Inspections & Revisits)	6
Vermineous premises (Visits & cleansing)	13

(Continued overleaf)

Meat & Food Inspection -	
Slaughter Houses	4
Meat & Food Shops & premises	553
Fish Fryers & offensive trades	31
Street Hawkers & Vendors	45
Dairies & Milkshops	30
Cowsheds	22
Shop Acts	50

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COMPLAINTS

Ninety three complaints were received during the year consisting of :-

Choked Drains 23, Defective Cesspits 4, Removal of Rubbish and Manure 5, Keeping of Animals 4, Vermin:- Rats 9, Bugs 2, Fleas 1, Offensive Smells 7, Removal of House Refuse 16, Overcrowding 1, Housing defects 14, Water Supply 3, and Miscellaneous 4.

COWSHEDS & DAIRIES

Twenty two visits were made to Cowsheds and thirty to Dairies and Milkshops. The visits to Cowsheds were made whilst the process of milking was taking place. Vessels used and the clothing and person concerned were scrupulously clean. The Milk Shops were visited at uncertain times, the storage and issuing of milk being very satisfactory.

EXAMINATION OF MEAT AND FOOD STUFFS

Four visits were made to Slaughter Houses during the year, this being due to emergency killing. All slaughtering of cattle, etc. is now taking place in centralised slaughter houses which are under control of the Ministry of Food. Retail Meat Shops were visited 316 times and Food Shops, Hotels, Restaurants, and Fish Fryers, 418 times. Street Hawkers were visited 45 times. Meat, Food, Fish and Street vendors were inspected at uncertain times. Three hundred and seventy pounds of Food Stuffs were condemned and voluntarily surrendered.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Fifty seven new connections have been made to the foul water sewer. Forty five smoke and water tests were made to drains and sanitary fittings, and forty two premises were drained or redrained. Thirty seven Cesspits have been abolished, and four Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system.

Up to the period ending 31st. December, 1940, 519 premises at Highcliff have been redrained and connected to the Town's new sewerage system. No Foul or Storm Water Sewers have been laid during 1940.

HOUSE REFUSE - COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of House Refuse has been carried out from approximately 4830 dwellings, The Barracks, Bournemouth Public Institution, and the Cottage Homes. In addition, refuse has been removed from 30 private premises twice and three times per week, under section 74 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The scavenging of roads, lanes, streets, and footpaths, is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

RIVERS, STREAMS AND DITCHES

Eight cases of pollution have occurred during the year. These were of a temporary nature, and have been remedied.

SHOP ACTS (including Workshops & Garages)

Seventy six visits were made under this and the Employment of Young Persons Act, 1938, sanitation, cleanliness, and the hours of employment being satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES (including Tents, Vans and Sheds)

Licences were not issued during 1940, camping sites and camping being disapproved by the Military and Police Authorities.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Two houses, nine bungalows, four flats, and one shop, were erected during the year.

Two Statutory Notices have been issued under this Act. In one case the repairs, etc. were carried out by the Corporation.

Ten informal notices have been served on owners of property and the repairs required have been carried out.

OVERCROWDING

Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of 1940	4
Number of families dwelling therein	4
Number of persons dwelling therein	31
Number of new cases reported during 1940	2
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during 1940	2
Number of persons concerned in such cases	19

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after local authority have taken steps for abatement

Nil.

Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report

VERMIN (BUGS)

Two cases occurred in Council Houses, three cases being reported in other dwellings. All five cases have been remedied. Stripping of walls, removal of skirtings, picture rails, and other woodwork was carried out. Numerous sprayings with "Zaldecide" were then given, after which fumigation with "Thermatox" candles was carried out. Up to date this treatment appears to have had the desired effect as further complaints have not been received.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

In December, in view of a Circular received from the Ministry of Health urging Diphtheria immunisation, a scheme was adopted by your Council. Arrangements were at once made by myself for immunisations of children to be carried out by medical practitioners on a sessional basis proposed by the British Medical Association.

Every endeavour was made to obtain as many consents as possible from parents, and in this matter most valuable assistance was afforded readily by Head-teachers of all schools, both public and private,

in your Borough.

Over 850 children have now been immunised.

CONTROL OF MEASLES

Arrangements have been made by the County Medical Officer for the supply of Serum upon request to Medical Practitioners wishing to carry out preventive treatment of measles contacts.

SAFE-GUARDING OF WATER SUPPLIES, SANITATION, etc.

In consultation with your Borough Engineer adequate arrangements have been agreed for the safe-guarding of water supplies and general sanitation in the event of damage to water mains, sewers, etc., by enemy action; in addition other relevant matters appertaining to the safe-guarding of the public health and welfare have received my careful attention and schemes for such safe-guarding are in being.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the Staff of the County Medical Officer, some part of this inspection is carried out by myself in my capacity as part-time Assistant County Medical Officer, as also medical attendance at the Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinic at Millhams Street.

The general health of scholars has been well maintained, in particular marked improvement in general health and physique has been observed among evacuee children originating from the poorer quarters of Southampton and Portsmouth.

The provisions made for the supply of milk to children in the schools has continued to be satisfactory, and all milk supplied has been pasteurised milk.

During the year the provision of School meals was established at the Christchurch Senior School, meals being provided at a charge of fourpence per head. An average of 60 to 90 meals was served daily. Recently on account of arrangements made for half-day attendance at the School, brought about through the increased number of evacuees, these meals have been discontinued.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

All children arriving from evacuating areas were, under arrangement made by me, medically examined on arrival, and arrangements were made for the immediate treatment of urgent defects found.

Arrangements made for the billeting of children and others under the Government Evacuation Scheme have on the whole been satisfactory. Certain difficulties of a serious character have, however, from time to time arisen, since no provision has existed in the Borough for the billeting of difficult cases nor for hospitalisation of cases of minor infections, etc., nor for the adequate treatment of cases of scabies and impetigo.

I have strongly urged the necessity for Sick Bay accommodation, and also for a Hostel, including satisfactory accommodation for the treatment of Scabies and the more serious cases of Impetigo. During the present year (1941), through the kind co-operation of the County Public Assistance Officer, arrangements have been made whereby infected bedding, clothing, etc., may be treated by steam disinfection at the Lyndhurst Road P.A. Institution, since no steam disinfector is available in your Borough, and the small chemical disinfector existing at Quomps is inadequate for the purpose.

I regard the provision of Sick Bay accommodation and a Hostel as essential, and I am hopeful that negotiations at present taking place for such provision may shortly mature. Failing such provision, it appears probable that the control of scabies in particular may become impossible, a fact which might well lead not only to considerable sociological disquietude but also to disastrous

pathological consequences, a position which particularly is aggravated in that infections such as scabies introduced by evacuees become, unfortunately, readily extended to the resident population.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, Food and Drugs Act, Maternity and Child Welfare Acts, and Midwives Act, are administered by the County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE - See Report for 1938. Byelaws re Offensive Trades and Refuse revised 1939. Building Byelaws brought into operation 1939. Christchurch Corporation Act brought into operation 1940.

(Section 53 of the Christchurch Corporation Act, which relates to the removal of infirmed and diseased persons, was brought into operation on the 15th. May, 1941).

GENERAL. The general health of the population of your District has continued to be satisfactory, and the general sanitary progress has been satisfactorily maintained.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of the help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL.

25th. July, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5198
Population (Census 1901)	4204
" " 1911	6053
" " 1921	6991
" " 1931	9183
" (Reg. General's Estimate) June, 1940	15350
" (Locally Estimated) December, 1940, (Including Military & Evacuees)	17000
Number of inhabited houses 1921	1406
" " " " 1931	2409
" " " " 1940	4600
Number of Dwellings and Shops 1940	5030
Rateable Value, 31st. December, 1940	£143592
Sum represented by a penny rate - 1940	£536